

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Universal Service Administrative Company)	
Board of Directors Position)	WC Docket No 96-45, 97-21
)	
Wireline Competition Bureau)	

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board
of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

The State of Alaska would like to take this opportunity to **support the nomination of Julie Tritt Schell** for the open position of *Representative for Schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to Section 54.501 of the Commission's Rules*.

We believe that Julie Tritt Schell has substantial expertise relevant to the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of Universal Service and its administration by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) as both an applicant and as a previous USAC board member. Her knowledge of the E-rate program dates back to the origin of the program. In addition to her 22 years of E-rate leadership, she previously served as the Director of the Pennsylvania Office of Educational Technology where she led K-12 and higher education technology policy initiatives for the State of Pennsylvania. She has the proven ability to serve as a committee member working with a diverse collection of opinions that represent a range of perspectives. Her experience has given her the ability to recognize and advocate for all of the different types of educational situations and settings. Along with her level temperament and

ability to listen as well as articulate her knowledge, this candidate is uniquely qualified because she has devoted her professional career to assisting applicants in successfully navigating the E-rate process. She is considered a subject specialist by her SECA colleagues around the nation and actively advocates on behalf of both School and Library applicants to the FCC and USAC with respect to recommendations that would improve the integrity and Efficacy of the E-rate program. She has a history of meeting with the FCC and USAC officials in her advocacy capacity.

Alaska supports this candidate for all of the above reasons, and also for an important reason that has yet to be mentioned. Julie Tritt Schell, when advocating for applicants in the E-rate program, has made it her mission to represent all applicants, not just the applicants from the state where she resides. She tirelessly reaches out to all corners of the nation prior to writing comments to make sure that her efforts represent the many different situations that comprise our E-rate community. In doing so she has proven to be a tireless advocate for rural America and their unique challenges with respect to E-rate program complexity. Her focus on program simplification, and her involvement of rural states as she looks for solutions, has not gone unnoticed by to the State of Alaska.

For all of these reasons, we whole heartedly support the nomination of Julie Tritt Schell to the open USAC board position for the next term. The Universal Service Fund, and specifically the E-rate program, are very complex and the stakeholders are diverse. While many qualified nominations will be made for this position, we believe that Julie Tritt Schell best has the ability to listen to and try to find consensus amongst the stakeholders that you represent.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie S. Oliver". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'V' and a distinct 'S'.

Valerie Oliver

State of Alaska E-rate Support and Outreach

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)